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AAAS CEO Urges Secretary of State to Fill Post of Science and Technology Adviser

Rush Holt, CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, issued the following statement Thursday calling on Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson to quickly appoint a respected scientist or engineer as his science and technology adviser. Outgoing adviser Vaughan Turekian is joining the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine:

“For over 16 years, the S&T adviser has served the administrations of both parties to ensure that the State Department has an array of scientific expertise at its disposal to inform and assist in policy development, implementation and evaluation.

“The position and office help the department to understand the foreign policy and diplomatic implications of advances in areas such as artificial intelligence, gene editing, 3-D printing as well as traditional areas of international agreements on oceans, satellites and research facilities.

“The S&T adviser has been uniquely positioned to engage the various divisions of the department and the scientific community outside of the government to develop and implement negotiating positions and statements.

“We urge Secretary Tillerson to ensure this progress continues by promptly naming a new science and technology adviser as well as to maintain the existing fellowship programs that bring young and established scientists and engineers to contribute to the important work at the State Department.”

– Rush Holt, CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

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The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal *Science*, as well as *Science Translational Medicine*; *Science Signaling*; a digital, open-access journal, *Science Advances*; *Science Immunology*; and *Science Robotics*. AAAS was founded in 1848 and includes nearly 250 affiliated societies and academies of science, serving 10 million individuals. *Science* has the largest paid circulation of any peer-reviewed general science journal in the world. The nonprofit AAAS is open to all and fulfills its mission to “advance science and serve society” through initiatives in science policy, international programs, science education, public engagement, and more. For additional information about AAAS, see www.aaas.org.